IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at pag 1, line 5, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A1 1. Field of the Invention

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 15, with the following r written paragraph:

A2 2. Description of the Related Art

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A3 Generally, a portable device and an industrial device equipped with a secondary cell cannot be operated continuously unless the secondary cell is charged. For example, a small lightweight device having a secondary cell, such as a portable telephone or an electrically operated toothbrush, is directly placed on a charger to charge the secondary cell in the device. Many connectors for connecting the portable device to the charger use a fixed leaf spring because the device is lightweight, the charging current is low, the device is placed directly on the charger by an operator, and the connector has a low requirement for reliability.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 15, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A4 An industrial device equipped with a secondary cell tends to be large in size, consume a large current, and have a high requirement for reliability. Therefore, many industrial devices use sockets and plugs for connection to chargers. In the case where a connector in a device equipped with a secondary cell is not connected by an operator, i.e., the connector is connected by a robot or an automatic moving mechanism in an automated factory, for example, a highly reliable connection can be established only when the device

has an accurate positioning mechanism and a highly durable connector. Since a medium-sized device or a large-sized device generally has a large space therein for a connector, the dimensions of the accurate positioning mechanism and the connector do not pose significant problems. However, a small-sized device such as a substrate carrier container does not have a large space therein for a connector. Therefore, it is necessary to make efforts to establish a highly reliable connection within a relatively small space.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Operation of the components of the power supply apparatus for charging the secondary cell in the substrate carrier container 10 will be described below. When the substrate carrier container 10 is transported to the power supply apparatus, for charging, with a transportation machine such as an AGV or an OHT, the substrate carrier container 10 is seated in a predetermined position on the body 15 through the guide members 16 and the positioning pins 17, as shown in FIG. 6. When the substrate carrier container 10 is seated in the predetermined position on the body 15, the seating detecting device 18 detects the seating of the substrate carrier container 10 on the body 15. Then, the seating detecting device 18 operates the lifting and lowering mechanism 20 to lift the connector 19 mounted on the upper end of the lifting and lowering mechanism 20. The connector 19 is brought into contact with the charging terminals 13 provided on the bottom of the substrate carrier container 10, thereby starting the charging of the secondary cell in the substrate carrier container 10. When the charging of the secondary cell is completed or the substrate carrier container 10 is moved according to a substrate processing sequence, the seating detecting device 18 is turned off, and then the connector 19 is lowered by the lifting and lowering mechanism 20. The connector 19 comprises a spring-type connector, which is susceptible to mechanical shocks. Therefore, the connector 19 is retracted downwardly when the substrate carrier container 10 is not seated on the body 15 or the power supply of the power supply apparatus is turned off. In the present embodiment, the

connector 19 is provided on the upper surface of th body 15. However, the connector 19 may be provided on the sid surface or the like, as needed. The connector 19 is vertically movable in the present embodiment. However, the connector 19 may be moved in horizontal directions or oblique directions inclined relative to the vertical or horizontal directions. Alternatively, the horizontal movement, the vertical movement, the oblique movement, and the rotational movement may be combined with each other as needed.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 11, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The connector 19 may comprise a fitting-type connector, a clip-type connector, or a contact-type connector. The fitting-type connector has such a structure that a plug and a socket are fitted into each other. The fitting-type connector is widely used with power supply cables and communication cables. The fitting-type connector is one of the most reliable connectors in applications where the plug is not frequently inserted into and removed from the socket. The clip-type connector is often used for temporary connection. The clip-type connector operates by clipping a conductor, and is less suitable for use as the connector 19 in the present embodiment. The contact-type connector generally has such a structure that a spring and a flat plate are brought into point contact with each other for conduction. The contact-type connector is effective in applications where only a small space is available for placing the connector. The spring of the contact-type connector may comprise a leaf spring or a coil spring, and many kinds of contact-type connectors with leaf springs and coil springs are available. In the present embodiment, the fitting-type connector or the contact-type connector is more effective than the clip-type connector, and the contact-type connector is more preferable from the viewpoint of saving space.